

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the Abstract as follows:

~~The present invention provides a~~ A simplified bone fastener removal tool which allows the surgeon to remove ~~bone screws or other bone~~ fasteners from bone, and from bone plates incorporating fastener locking elements. The tool includes an inner shaft which axially engages the bone fastener, a drive shaft which allows the fastener to be rotated ~~using the tool~~, and an ~~internally threaded~~ outer sleeve which, in combination with the drive shaft, allows for a controlled removal of the fastener from the bone plate and bone. In particular, ~~the internal threads of~~ formed on the outer sleeve engage external threads formed on the drive shaft, such that rotating the drive shaft ~~while maintaining the outer sleeve fixed~~ causes the drive shaft to translate with respect to the sleeve. Thus, ~~when a fastener is axially engaged with the drive shaft~~, a controlled removal of the fastener from the bone and bone plate is accomplished ~~simply~~ by rotating the drive shaft with respect to the outer sleeve. No pulling on the fastener is necessary. ~~A method of using the tool is also provided.~~